

10/551586**- 1 - JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 SEP 2005**

FICO CABLES, S.A. Engineering Department

December 8, 2004
F39511WO HS/Kij/pes

Amended Claims

1. A self-locking shaft (1), comprising:

5

a. a shaft portion (10);

b. a head portion (20) for mounting of the shaft (1) at a support (50); wherein

10

c. the head portion (20) comprises resilient clips (30), which latch with the support (50) during a rotational mounting motion of the shaft (1) with respect to the support (50),

15

wherein the clips (30) are provided as resilient straps which radially extend from a cup-shaped portion (22) of the head portion (20) to the outside, and

20

wherein the clips (30) are connected to the cup-shaped portion (22) at one side of the clips (30) only and wherein the connection line is axially oriented with respect to the shaft (1).

2. Self-locking shaft according to claim 1, wherein the clips (30) comprise a rectangular shape and an axially curved radial top surface.

- 2 -

3. Self-locking shaft according to one of the claims 1 or 2, wherein the shaft (1) comprises a pin (40), which is connected to the head portion (20) in axial direction and which secures the shaft (1) after the assembly from undesired rotation.

4. Self-locking shaft according to one of the claims 1 - 3, wherein the shaft (1) comprises a handle area (23) at the head portion (20) for manual assembly of the shaft (1) in the support (50) without tools.

5. Self-locking shaft according to one of the claims 1 - 4, wherein the shaft (1) and all its components (10, 20, 30, 40) are integrally injection molded from a plastic material.

6. Support (50) fixedly latched with a self-locking shaft (1) according to one of the previous claims, the support (50) comprising:

a. an essentially cylindrically socket (60), which is integrated within the support (50); and

b. at least one latching window (64) for receiving a clip (30) during the latching of the shaft (1) with the support (50) by a rotation; wherein

c. the latching window (64) is radially introduced into the cylindrical wall of the socket (60).

- 3 -

7. Support according to claim 6, further comprising a pin guidance (70), which is provided as a curved elongated hole.
8. Support according to one of the claims 6 or 7, wherein the socket (60) further comprises at least one axially curved recess (63) for receiving a clip (30) during the insertion of the shaft (1) into the support (50).
9. Pedal system, particularly for automotive engineering, comprising a self-locking shaft (1) and/or a support (50) for a self-locking shaft according to one of the previous claims 1 to 8.
10. Parking brake lever system, particularly for automotive engineering, comprising a self-locking shaft (1) and/or a support (50) for a self-locking shaft according to one of the previous claims 1 to 8.
11. Method for the assembly of a shaft (1) according to one of the previous claims 1 to 5, within a support respectively a housing (50), comprising the following steps in the following sequence:
- a. Inserting the shaft (1) in axial direction (I) into a corresponding socket (60) within the support (50);
- a. Rotating the shaft (1) around its rotational axis, until clips (30), which extend radially from the shaft (1), snap into a latching window (64) within the socket (60).

- 4 -

12. Method according to claim 11, wherein the rotation of the shaft (1) is performed around an angle of less or equal 180° .

13. Method according to claim 11, wherein the rotation of the shaft (1) is performed around an angle of less or equal 90° .